United Nations A/CONF.210/2006/2

General Assembly

Distr.: General
21 February 2006

Original: English

Review Conference on the Agreement for the Implementation of the Provisions of the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea of 10 December 1982 relating to the Conservation and Management of Straddling Fish Stocks and Highly Migratory Fish Stocks
New York, 22-26 May 2006

Financial report on the status of the Assistance Fund under Part VII of the Agreement for the Implementation of the Provisions of the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea of 10 December 1982 relating to the Conservation and Management of Straddling Fish Stocks and Highly Migratory Fish Stocks

Note by the Secretariat

1. By its resolution 58/14, the General Assembly decided to establish an Assistance Fund under Part VII of the Agreement to assist developing States parties in the implementation of the Agreement. Pursuant to the resolution, the Fund is administered by the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO), which acts as the implementing Office for the Fund, in collaboration with the United Nations. Paragraph 21 of the Terms of Reference for the Assistance Fund states that, in addition to the submission of an annual report on activities of the Fund, a report on the activities of the Fund, to date, including a financial statement of the contributions to and disbursements from the Fund shall be presented to the Review Conference provided for under article 36 of the Agreement.

2. Pursuant to that requirement, FAO has provided its report on the activities of the Fund (see annex).

06-25244 (E) 140306

Annex

Financial report on the status of the Assistance Fund under Part VII of the Agreement for the Implementation of the Provisions of the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea of 10 December 1982 relating to the Conservation and Management of Straddling Fish Stocks and Highly Migratory Fish Stocks

I. Introduction

1. In its resolution 58/14, the General Assembly decided to establish an Assistance Fund under Part VII of the Agreement for the Implementation of the Provisions of the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea of 10 December 1982 relating to the Conservation and Management of Straddling Fish Stocks and Highly Migratory Fish Stocks (1995 United Nations Fish Stocks Agreement), to assist developing States parties in the implementation of the Agreement. It also decided that the Fund would be administered by the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO). The Fund was set up on 19 April 2005.[a] It is managed in accordance with the Fund's Terms of Reference, the Financial Regulations of FAO and other applicable rules.

II. Contributions to the Assistance Fund

2. The United Nations and FAO have made calls for contributions to the Assistance Fund at international forums including the fifty-ninth session of the United Nations General Assembly and the twenty-sixth session of the FAO Committee on Fisheries as well as on the Assistance Fund's website.[b] Particular emphasis is placed on the potential involvement of donor organizations as contributors to the Fund, as indicated by the General Assembly in its resolution 58/14.

3. As at 31 December 2005, the Governments of Iceland, Norway and the United States of America, all three States parties to the 1995 United Nations Fish Stocks Agreement, had made financial contributions to the Assistance Fund totalling $345,469.65.[c] The table shows their respective contributions and accrued interest on the funds.

4. States, intergovernmental organizations, international financial institutions, national institutions, non-governmental organizations and natural and juridical persons wishing to make contributions to the Assistance Fund should direct their payments to the following FAO bank account, citing project MFT/GLO/124/MUL:

BancaIntesa — FAO Branch (Swift code: BCIT ITMM700)
FAO/UN Trust Fund US$ Account
ABI 03069 CAB 03356 A/c No. 000049065067
Viale delle Terme di Caracalla, 00100 Rome, Italy
IBAN IT91T030 6903 3560 00049065067

III. Requests for assistance from the Fund

5. Despite the wide dissemination of information about the existence and purpose of the Assistance Fund by the United Nations and FAO, including by electronic means, there have been only two requests for assistance from the Fund, only one of which was approved.

6. The United Nations and FAO encourage States, intergovernmental organizations, international financial institutions, national institutions, non-governmental organizations and natural and juridical persons to make voluntary financial contributions to the Fund. The United Nations and FAO want to ensure that the Assistance Fund maintains a healthy level of funds so that efforts can be made on a sustained basis to support the implementation of the 1995 United Nations Fish Stocks Agreement.

7. Attention is drawn to the very limited number of applications for assistance by eligible States parties to the 1995 United Nations Fish Stocks Agreement. The United Nations and FAO will continue their efforts to promulgate information about the Assistance Fund by all appropriate means.

IV. Conclusion

8. The Assistance Fund was established, and is being managed, in accordance with its Terms of Reference and the Financial Regulations of FAO and other applicable rules.

1995 United Nations Fish Stocks Agreement Part VII Assistance Fund: contributions account at 31 December 2005

Donor	*2004 received (United States dollars)*	*2005 received (United States dollars)*	*Total received plus interest (United States dollars)*	*Remarks*
USA	200 000.00		200 000.00	Received in June 2004
Iceland		49 995.00	49 995.00	Received in April 2005
Norway		95 474.65	95 474.65	Received in May 2005
Accrued interest on funds	2 710.14	5 277.51	7 987.65	
Total	**202 710.14**	**150 747.16**	**353 457.30**	

Notes

[a] Account MTF/GLO/124/MUL "1995 UN Fish Stocks Agreement — Part VII-Trust Fund".

[b] http://www.un.org/Depts/los/convention_agreements/fishstocktrustfund. Contributions to the Fund should be made to the trust fund account established by FAO in accordance with paragraph 7 of the Terms of Reference of the Fund.

[c] It is anticipated that a contribution from the Government of Canada will be deposited in the near future.